

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

October 17, 2014

Certified Mail

7012 3460 0003 1113 0765

R.R. Lewis Small Water Company  
4500 E. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA 95215

Attention: Larry Ostrom – Manager

**Subject: Public Water System No. 4600017 – Citation 01-02-14C-006-4600017-22  
March 2014 and August 2014 Exceedance of the Bacteriological  
Maximum Contaminant Level**

Enclosed is a citation issued to the R.R. Lewis Small Water Company (Company). The citation is being issued because the Company failed to comply with the drinking water standard for total coliform bacteria during March 2014 and August 2014. Please be aware that the Directives section of the citation contains required actions that must be taken by the Company to return to compliance.

Note that Section 116577 of the California Safe Drinking Water Act provides for our Department to be reimbursed by the public water system for costs incurred for preparing and issuing a citation to that system. In accordance with Section 116577, the Company will be billed for the preparation and issuance of this citation. Our current costs are approximately \$126 per hour. The estimated time to prepare the citation is one hour.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call staff engineer Steve Watson at (530) 224-4828 or me at (530) 224-4800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. McNamara".

Michael J. McNamara, P.E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

cc: Elizabeth Morgan, Sierra County Environmental Health Department

Enclosures

sww \ 4600017 RR Lewis SWC \ File: Enforcement

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

**TO:** R.R. Lewis Small Water Company  
4500 E. Fremont Street  
Stockton, CA 95215

**Attn:** Larry Ostrom, Manager

**CITATION FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS,  
TITLE 22, SECTION 64533(a) - WATER SYSTEM NO. 4600017  
C I T A T I O N   N O .   01-02-14(C)006  
Issued on October 17, 2014**

Section 116650 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the issuance of a citation to a public water system for violation of the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4, commencing with Section 116270) (hereinafter “California SDWA”), or any regulation, standard, permit or order issued or adopted thereunder.

The State Water Resources Control Board (hereinafter "Board"), acting by and through its Division of Drinking Water (hereinafter "Division") and the Deputy Director for the Division (hereinafter "Deputy Director"), hereby issues a citation to the R.R. Lewis Small Water Company (hereinafter, Company) (4500 E. Fremont Street,

1 Stockton, CA 95215) for violation of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22,  
2 Section 64426.1 subsection (b).

3  
4 **APPLICABLE AUTHORITIES**

5 **Section 116650 of California Health and Safety Code provides:**

6  
7 (a) If the department determines that a public water system is in violation  
8 of this chapter or any regulation, permit, standard, citation, or order issued or adopted  
9 thereunder, the department may issue a citation to the public water system. The  
10 citation shall be served upon the public water system personally or by certified mail.  
11 Service shall be deemed effective as of the date of personal service or the date of  
12 receipt of the certified mail. If a person to whom a citation is directed refuses to accept  
13 delivery of the certified mail, the date of service shall be deemed to be the date of  
14 mailing.

15 (b) Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe the nature of the  
16 violation or violations, including a reference to the statutory provision, standard, order,  
17 citation, permit, or regulation alleged to have been violated.

18 (c) A citation may specify a date for elimination or correction of the  
19 condition constituting the violation.

20 (d) A citation may include the assessment of a penalty as specified in  
21 subdivision (e).

22 (e) The department may assess a penalty in an amount not to exceed  
23 one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day that a violation occurred, and for  
24 each day that a violation continues to occur. A separate penalty may be assessed for  
25 each violation.  
26  
27

1 **California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 64426.1, subsection (b)**  
2 **provides, in relevant part:**

3  
4 (b) A public water system is in violation of the total coliform MCL  
5 [maximum contaminant level] when any of the following occurs:

6 (1) For a public water system which collects at least 40 samples per  
7 month, more than 5.0 percent of the samples collected during any month are total  
8 coliform-positive; or

9 (2) For a public water system which collects fewer than 40 samples  
10 per month, more than one sample collected during any month is total coliform-positive;  
11 or

12 (3) Any repeat sample is fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-positive; or

13 (4) Any repeat sample following a fecal coliform-positive or E. coli-  
14 positive routine sample is total coliform-positive.

15  
16 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

17  
18 The Company operates a community water system which serves a population of  
19 approximately 225 people through 119 service connections. The water system  
20 includes two gravity springs, known as Anderson Spring and Wixson Spring, six  
21 distribution reservoirs, four pressure zones, and a sodium hypochlorite disinfection  
22 system for the water produced from Anderson Spring. The Company operates under  
23 a Water Supply Permit No. 01-02-93(P)46023, issued on December 31, 1993.

24  
25 On March 3, 2014, three routine bacteriological samples were collected from the  
26 following sample site locations: sites A-3, A-2, and 5. Samples from sites A-3 and 5  
27 were found to show the presence of total coliform bacteria. Three repeat

1 bacteriological samples were collected on March 4, 2014, from the following locations:  
2 sites A-3, 5A, and A-2. Sample site A-3 was found to show the presence total coliform  
3 bacteria. Additional samples were collected; one from the Wixson Spring and one  
4 from the Anderson Spring on March 5, 2014, both of which were absent of total  
5 coliform bacteria. An additional sample collected from site A-3 on March 13, 2014,  
6 was also absent of total coliform bacteria.

7  
8 On August 4, 2014, three routine bacteriological samples were collected from the  
9 following locations: sites A-2, 5-B, and 5-A. Sample site 5-A was found to show the  
10 presence of total coliform bacteria. A special sample collected from the Wixson  
11 Storage Tank on that same day was also found to contain total coliform bacteria.  
12 Since the contamination appeared to be originating from the Wixson Spring, the  
13 Company immediately discontinued its use and began serving the entire distribution  
14 system with water from the Anderson Spring, which is continuously disinfected with  
15 sodium hypochlorite.

16  
17 On August 11, 2014, the Division was made aware of the routine positive sample  
18 through the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health. The Division then  
19 contacted the Company and instructed them to collect three repeat bacteriological  
20 samples according to regulatory requirements. On August 13, 2014, the Company  
21 returned the Wixson Spring to service, temporarily, and collected one repeat  
22 bacteriological sample from site 5-A. This sample was found to show the presence of  
23 total coliform bacteria. Once this sample had been collected, the Company again  
24 took the Wixson Spring out of service and flushed the distribution system with water  
25 from the Anderson Spring. As of the date of this Citation, the Wixson Spring remains  
26 out of service. All routine samples collected from the distribution system since August  
27 13, 2014, have been absent of total coliform bacteria.

**DETERMINATION**

The Division has determined that Company violated Section 64426.1(b)(2), Title 22, of the CCR, in that the Company exceeded the total coliform MCL during the months of March 2014 and August 2014.

**DIRECTIVES**

The Company is hereby directed to take the following actions:

1. Comply with Section 64426.1, Title 22, of the CCR in all future monitoring periods.
2. Within 30 days of the issuance of this Citation, notify all persons served by the Company of the MCL violation as required by Section 64463.4 and Section 64465, Title 22, of the CCR. Notification shall be completed in accordance with each of the following:
  - a. Mail or direct delivery of the notice contained in Attachment 'A' to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the Company.
  - b. Provide the notice contained in Attachment 'A' by publication in a local newspaper to reach persons not likely to be reached by a mailing or direct delivery:

Changes and/or modifications to Attachment 'A' shall be not be made unless approved by the Division.

3. Complete and return Attachment 'B' "Certification of Completion of Public Notification" form within 10 days of giving public notice. A copy of the notice used to provide public notification shall be attached to the form.
4. Within 30 days the Company shall submit to the Division a Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan in accordance with Section 64422, Title 22, of the CCR. The Sample Siting Plan requirement shall be met by completing and submitting Attachment 'C.'
5. The Company shall ensure that all bacteriological samples collected for compliance purposes are clearly labeled as described in the Company's Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan that is approved by the Division, in order to remain in compliance with the monitoring requirements of the primary standards for total coliform bacteria.

All documents required by this Citation to be submitted to the Division shall be submitted to the following address:

Michael J. McNamara, P. E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
Drinking Water Field Operations  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board  
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 224-4800



1 Nothing in this Citation relieves the Company of its obligation to meet the  
2 requirements of Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 12, Chapter 4 (California  
3 Safe Drinking Water Act), or any regulation, permit, standard or order issued or  
4 adopted thereunder.

5  
6 The Division reserves the right to make such modifications to this Citation, as it may  
7 deem necessary to protect public health and safety. Such modifications may be  
8 issued as amendments to this Citation and shall be effective upon issuance.

9  
10 **PARTIES BOUND**

11 This Citation shall apply to and be binding upon the Company, its officers, directors,  
12 shareholders, agents, employees, contractors, successors, and assignees.

13  
14 **SEVERABILITY**

15 The Directives of this Citation are severable, and the Company shall comply with each  
16 and every provision thereof, notwithstanding the effectiveness of any other provision.

17  
18 **FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

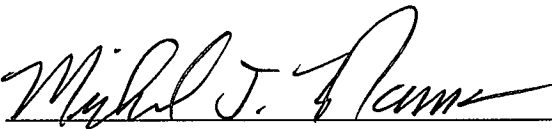
19 The California SDWA authorizes the Board to: issue citation with assessment of  
20 administrative penalties to a public water system for violation or continued violation of  
21 the requirements of the California SDWA or any permit, regulation, permit or order  
22 issued or adopted thereunder including, but not limited to, failure to correct a violation  
23 identified in a citation or compliance order. The California SDWA also authorizes the  
24 Board to take action to suspend or revoke a permit that has been issued to a public  
25 water system if the system has violated applicable law or regulations or has failed to  
26 comply with an order of the Board; and to petition the superior court to take various  
27 enforcement measures against a public water system that has failed to comply with





violates an order of the Board. The Board does not waive any further enforcement  
action by issuance of this citation.

10/24/2014  
Date

  
Michael J. McNamara, P.E.  
Lassen District Engineer  
Division of Drinking Water  
State Water Resources Control Board

- Attachments:
- 'A' Public Notification Template
  - 'B' Certification of Completion
  - 'C' Bacteriological Sample Siting Plan form



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

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### Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in the R.R. Lewis Small Water Company's Domestic Water System

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Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants in the water system. During March 2014, we collected seven samples from our water system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Four of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. During August 2014, we collected four samples from our water system to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Two of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

#### What Should You Do?

**You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

#### What Does This Mean?

This is not an emergency. If it were, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliform bacteria are a signal that there may be a problem with our source of supply, storage, or distribution systems. Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing, and further testing shows that this problem has been resolved.

#### What Happened? What Was Done?

On March 3, 2014, three routine bacteriological samples were collected from the distribution system. Two of these samples were found to show the presence of total coliform bacteria. Three repeat bacteriological samples were collected on March 4, 2014, and one of these samples was found to show the presence total coliform bacteria. Additional samples were collected from the Wixson spring and from the Anderson Spring on March 5, 2014, both of which were absent of total coliform bacteria. An additional sample collected from A-3 on March 13, 2014, was also absent of total coliform bacteria. The cause of the contamination was not determined.

On August 4, 2014, three routine bacteriological samples were collected from the distribution system. One of these samples was found to show the presence of total coliform bacteria. A special sample collected from the Wixson Storage Tank on that same day was also found to contain total coliform bacteria. Since the contamination appeared to be originating from the Wixson Spring, the Company immediately discontinued its use and began serving the entire distribution system with water from the Anderson Spring and its associated disinfection treatment system. All routine samples collected from the distribution system since August 13, 2014, have been absent of total coliform bacteria

For more information please contact Larry Ostrom, R.R. Lewis Small Water Company, at (209) 948-8817.

## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

This form when completed and returned to the Division of Drinking Water (364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 101, Redding, CA 96002 or fax to 530-224-4844), serves as certification that public notification to water users was completed as required by the California Water Quality and Monitoring Regulations. Completing public notification and providing the Department with certification is important. Failure to do so will result in additional hourly time charges to your water utility and may result in a formal enforcement action with monetary penalties.

**Public Water System Name** \_\_\_\_\_ R.R. Lewis Small Water Company \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Water System No.** \_\_\_\_\_ 4600017 \_\_\_\_\_

Public notification for the March/August 2014 bacteriological failure was performed by the following method(s):

**(CHECK AND COMPLETE ONLY THOSE THAT APPLY)**

\_\_\_\_\_ The notice was published in the local newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the newspaper notice is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ The notice was mailed to users on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the notice is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ The notice hand delivered to water customers on \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the notice is attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ The attached notice was posted in the following conspicuous places:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For this method, provide the date (or dates) that the notice was posted \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby certify that the above information is factual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

System or Facility Name:	<b>R.R. Lewis Small Water Company</b>
Public Water System #:	<b>4600017</b>
Service connections:	<b>123</b>
Population:	<b>324</b>
Source(s):	<b>Anderson Spring &amp; Wixson Spring</b>

Pressure Zone	Connections	Percentage of Total System	Population Served	System Source(s) that Supply the Pressure Zone

Pressure Zone	Receives Water From	Supplies Water To	No of Storage Tanks & Capacity of Each (gal)

**Complete the attached Annual Sampling Schedule if each routine sample site is not sampled an equal number of times each month.**

If this routine sample (or any routine sample) contains coliform bacteria, the water system must collect a set of repeat distribution samples within 24 hours of being notified of the result **as well as a sample from each source supplying the sample site. The source samples must be analyzed for E. coli.**

**Repeat Sample Set:**

1. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample at the original routine sample site)

2. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections upstream)

3. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections downstream)

4. Source Sample Sites: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample from each source that has supplied Routine Sample Site No. 1 with water within the last 30 days)

**2. Routine Distribution Sample Site ID:** \_\_\_\_\_**System Source(s) Supplying This Site:** \_\_\_\_\_**Pressure Zone:** \_\_\_\_\_

If this routine sample (or any routine sample) contains coliform bacteria, the water system must collect a set of repeat distribution samples within 24 hours of being notified of the result **as well as a sample from each source supplying the sample site. The source samples must be analyzed for E. coli.**

**Repeat Sample Set:**

1. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample at the original routine sample site)

2. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections upstream)

3. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections downstream)

4. Source Sample Sites: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample from each source that has supplied Routine Sample Site No. 1 with water within the last 30 days)

\* A routine sample site must be designated for each pressure zone or separate area served by the water system.

Sampling from the routine sample sites must be rotated such that they are all sampled on a regular basis in proportion to the population served in each pressure zone. If this water system must designate more than two routine sample sites, please do so on the attached addition page. Copy and include as many pages as necessary to specify each routine site.

Check one of the following:

- ☐ Only one or two routine sample sites are necessary to adequately represent the system. Additional routine and repeat sample sites are not attached.
- ☐ This water system contains more than two pressure zones or service areas. Additional routine and repeat sample sites are attached.

**V. Sampling During The Month Following A Positive Sample**

Section 64424(d) of the California Code of Regulations requires if a public water system for which fewer than five routine samples per month are collected has one or more total coliform-positive samples, the water supplier shall collect at least five routine samples the following month. Include additional routine sample sites in Part IV if necessary to meet this requirement. Samples may be taken from a single site spread over the entire month, from five different sites on a single day or any combination thereof.

**VI. Raw Water Sampling**

Systems which provide continuous chlorine treatment are required to take a raw water sample prior to the addition of chlorine each month. For each source, identify below which are continuously disinfected, their log inactivation requirement (if any) and which will be sampled prior to disinfection during the months they are in operation.

Source	Continuous Disinfection	Log Inactivation Requirement	Monthly Raw Water Sampling?	Raw Water Sample Site ID
Anderson Spring	Yes	No		
Wixson Spring	No	No		

## **VII. Map or Diagram**

**Attach** a water system map or diagram showing the location of the water source(s), storage tanks, pressure zones, and all routine, repeat, and raw water sample sites.

## **VIII. Personnel and Laboratory Notification**

Sampler: \_\_\_\_\_

(Sample collection must be performed by a person trained in sample collection. Provide name of sampler.)

Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_

(Provide the name and phone number of the certified lab doing your water analysis. Arrangement must be made for weekend and holiday analysis if needed.)

Notification: \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory to notify persons designated below within 24 hours whenever a sample is found to contain coliform bacteria:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  

(Name)
(Daytime Phone #)
(Evening Phone #)
2. \_\_\_\_\_  

(Name)
(Daytime Phone #)
(Evening Phone #)

**IX. Notification of the Department:** The water system will notify the State Division of Drinking Water, Lassen District Office, within 24 hours whenever a sample contains fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria or whenever a follow-up repeat sample is positive for total coliform bacteria.

Steve Watson, Associate Engineer: 530-224-4828 (evening: 530-515-6156)

Mike McNamara, Lassen District Engineer: 530-224-4800 (evening: 530-941-1419)

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR REFERENCE AND USE**

**When responding to a laboratory report of bacterial contamination, keep in mind the following:**

- Coliform bacteria should not be present in drinking water and the presence of coliform indicates a potentially serious problem. Appropriate investigation should be performed immediately.
- Check water system components such as water sources, filtration and/or chlorination equipment and storage tanks for indications of unusual conditions or problems.
- Correct problems immediately, do not wait for results of follow-up samples to take action.
- If a **source sample** result is E. coli positive, the system must conduct Tier 1 public notification, notify the Division, and collect five (5) additional source samples within 24 hours of being notified of the E. coli positive source sample result

### Additional Routine Samples (if needed)

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3. Routine Distribution Sample Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

System Source(s) Supplying This Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Pressure Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Repeat Sample Set:**

1. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample at the original routine sample site)

2. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections upstream)

3. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections downstream)

4. Source Sample Sites: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample from each source that has supplied Routine Sample Site No. 1 with water within the last 30 days)

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4. Routine Distribution Sample Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

System Source(s) Supplying This Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Pressure Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Repeat Sample Set:**

1. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample at the original routine sample site)

2. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections upstream)

3. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections downstream)

4. Source Sample Sites: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample from each source that has supplied Routine Sample Site No. 1 with water within the last 30 days)

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5. Routine Distribution Sample Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

System Source(s) Supplying This Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Pressure Zone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Repeat Sample Set:**

1. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample at the original routine sample site)

2. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections upstream)

3. Repeat sample site ID: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample within five connections downstream)

4. Source Sample Sites: \_\_\_\_\_

(collect one sample from each source that has supplied Routine Sample Site No. 1 with water within the last 30 days)

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## Annual Sampling Schedule

List all routine sample sites and indicate the number of times each site will be sampled in each month.

[illegible][illegible]